

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-13 OMB-01 SAM-01 SSM-03 SAB-01 AID-05 ACDA-07

OPR-02 A-01 CCO-00 /099 W

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R 281604Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5601

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJ: CAIRO PRESS ON LEBANON

1. POSSIBLE CEASEFIRE: AHAM BANNER HEADLINE REPORTS
PALESTINIAN DELCARATION THAT TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED
BETWEEN SYRIA AND PLO ON PERMANENT CEASEFIRE. ACCORDING
TO AHAM, SYRIAN ENVOY IN BEIRUT HAS INFORMED RIGHTIST
FORCES OF OUTLINES OF AGREEMENT AS FOLLOWS: A) FORMATION
OF COMMITTEE, WITH AL-KHULI AS POSSIBLE HEAD, OF LEBANESE LEFT
AND RIGHT, SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS WHICH WILL MEET UNDER
ARAB LEAGUE SUPERVISION; B) COMMITTEE WILL BE AUTHORIZED
TO USE ARAB SECURITY FORCES WHEREEVER CONSIDERED NECESSARY
TO ENFORCE CEASEFIRE; C) PALESTIANIANS WILL WITHDRAW FROM
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POSITIONS IN ALL AREAS CONTROLLED BY RIGHTTESTS IN NORTH AND

NORTHEAST OF COUNTRY AND WILL REMOVE ALL "HEAVY MILITARY EQUIPMENT" FROM 15 CAMPS; D) PALESTINIANS COMMIT THEMSELVES TO ABIDE BY CAIRO ACCORD OF 1969; AND E) SYRIA TO GUARANTEE PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND "LEBANESE GOVERNMENT".

2. ACTING AL SYG NOFAL TOLD VOA CORRESPONDENT JULY 27 THAT REPORTS HE HAS RECEIVED FROM AL-KHULI, ASF COMMANDER GENERAL GHUNAYM AND PALESTINIAN SOURCES LEAD HIM TO BELIEVE THAT FIRM PALESTINIAN /SYRIAN AGREEMENT IS IMMINENT. NOFAL ALSO PLACED PRESENT ASF TROOP STRENGTH AT 3000 AND SAID RECENT APPEAL FOR PARTICIPATION OF NINE COUNTRIES HAS RESULTED IN SOME POSITIVE RESPONSES AND ONE NEGATIVE, BAHRAIN.

3. POLITICAL MOVES. AHAM ALSO REPORTS EXTENSIVE POLITICAL CONTACTS AMONG EGYPTIANS , SAUDIS, KUWAITIS AND PLO. FORMIN FAHMY MET JULY 27 WITH PLO (FATAH) REPRESENTATIVES KHALID AL-HASAN AND SA'D KAMAL. DECISION REACHED TO SEND AL-HASAN TO SAUDI ARABIA JULY 28 FOR TALKS WITH KING KHALID. AHAM EXPECTS TRIPARTITE SAUDI-KUWAITI-PALESTINANA MEETING JULY 29 IN JIDDA AND REPORTS KUWAITI FONMIN ARRIVED IN RIYADH JULY 27. REPORTEDLY ALSO BEING CONSIDERED IS GATHERING OF SAUDI, SYRIAN AND KUWAITI FONMINSAND PLO TO DISCUSS GURANTEES FOR STABILITY IN LEBANON.

4. US EVACUATION: NAVAL EVACUATION OF AMERICAN DREW BANNER HEADLINES IN AHKBAR AND GUMHURRIYA. LATTER TREATS EVACUATION AS PORTENTIOUS EVENT, BANNERING "THE AMERICANS HAVE LEFT LEBANON. " GUMHURRIYA ARTICLE OBSERVES 15 U.S. OFFICIALS IN FACT STILL HTERE, BUT CIT NEWS AGENCIES REPORTS SAYING DIPLOMATIC VIEW EVACUATION AS PREPARATIONFOR FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION AT MARONITE REQUEST. ARTICLE FREE OF SPECULATION CONSIDERING SOURCE OF POSSIBLE INTERVENTION.

5. MEANWHILE, AKHBAR NOTES PRESIDENT FORD'S SATISFACTION WITH SUCCESSFUL EVACUATION, UNDER HEADLINE " FORD THANKS PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE".

6. DISAGREEMENT WITHIN FACTIONS. GUMHURRIYA REPORTS PALESTINIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REJECTION FRONT DISASSOCIATES ITSELF FROM ANY CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT THAT DOES NOT SPECIFY TOTAL SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL. DISSENSION IN RIGHTISTS RANKS ALSO NOTED IN AHAM REPORT OF ALLEGED CHAMOUN-KATAIB FIGHTING IN JUNIEH FOR /CONTROL OF MARONITES".

7. CONTINUED CRITICISM OF LEBANESE RIGHT: AKHBAR EDITORIAL STRONGLY CRITICIZES "CHAMOUN- ZIONIST" ALLIANCE, WHILE SEPARATE

ARTICLE BY CHAIRMAN MUSA SABRI TAKES POT SHOTS AT FRANJIYA, WHOSE "ABOMINABLE CRIMES WILL RELEGATE HIM TO GARBAGE BIN OF HISTORY". (COMMENT: EVEN SOME OF AKHBAR STAFFERS ARE SAYING MUSA SHOULD TONE DOWN HIS RHTORIC).

8. MEANWHILE, AL SYG RIAD'S STAFF ASSISTANT HAS CONFIED TO US THAT RIAD'S PHYSICAL CONDITION (BLOD CLOT IN EYE) IS SERIOUS AND LIKELY TO KEEP HIM FROM PLAYING ACTIVE ROLE FOR SOME TIME. EVEN AFTER TREATMENT IN ZURICH COMPLETED, ASSISTANT SAYS, RIAD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER FROM AL-KHULI IN HIS COMINGS AND GOINGS.

9. COMMENT: GOE'S ADVOCACY OF PLO AND EGYPTIAN AL-KHULI'S PERFORMANCE, WHICH HAS EARNED ADMIRATION OF AL SECRETARIAT IN CAIRO, ARE APPARENTLY GIVING EGYPTIANS AT LEAST SOME PUBLIC ROLE IN LEBANESE EVENTS. GOE EXPECTS TO MAGNIFY IMPRESSION OF ITS INFLUENCE IN DAYS TO COME WHILE KEEPING ITS PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL INVESTMENT MINIMAL.
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